Visit of the President of Cyprus to India

294. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Cyprus visited India during the month of April, 1989;

(b) if so, the nature of talks held by him with the Indian leaders;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Cyprus; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During talks the President of Cyprus had with our leaders both sides agreed on the need to intensify bilateral cooperation particularly in the economic and cultural fields. Among international issues of mutual interest discussed were the Cyprus question and the challenges facing the Non-aligned Movement.

(c) and (d) An Agreement on economic, trade, scientific, technical and industrial cooperation was signed between India and Cyprus on 13th April, 1989. The agreement aims at promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Late running of trains

295. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some trains like Hirakud Express, Utkal Express, Nilachal Express and Delhi-Puri Express are running late regularly;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, on how many days these trains have come to Delhi or to their destination in time during the last three months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Shifting the Headquarters of South Eastern Railway

296. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to shift the Headquarters of South Eastern Railway from Calcutta to Bhubneshwar, Sambalpur or any other Centrally located place in Orsisa;

(b) if so, what are the proposals received from different State Governments in that regard; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Sometime back, the Government of Orissa had suggested shifting of the headquarter office of South Eastern Railway from Calcutta to some place in Orissa. However, the proposal was not found feasible in view of the fact that right from the time of its formation, the headquarters of South Eastern Railway has been located in Calcutta and this arrangement has been working satisfactorily. In view of severe financial constraints, the likely dislocation to a large number of staff and on administrative grounds, the Government are not considering any proposal at present to shift the headquarters of South Eastern Railway from Calcutta.